

Selectmen Applaud Island Creek Oysters' Best Overall Award

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

This week, selectmen applauded the first place win of Island Creek oysters at a national competition last month.

In turn, the growers presented selectmen with the plaque commemorating the award to hang in town hall.

Oysters grown in Duxbury Bay and sold by Island Creek Oysters were judged to be the best overall in the Invitational Oyster Tasting event held in Providence last month. Duxbury oysters bested 19 other varieties of Eastern oysters, which were judged on their shells, internal appearance, aroma, flavor, aftertaste and ease of shucking. Island Creek oysters won in the external shell category, tied for second in aftertaste and received third in flavor.

Director of Business Development for Island Creek Oysters Shore Gregory said it was a boost to growers to

have their product declared the best. Island Creek sells the oysters of fifteen independent growers.

Selectman Andre Martecchini agreed: "Duxbury has the best oysters in the nation. It is really the intent of what we were trying to achieve" by awarding shellfish growers grants in the bay.

Gregory said the third annual Oyster Festival is tentatively scheduled for September.

In other business, selectmen:

- Listened to a presentation by the Open Space and Recreation Committee on the updated open space plan. Chairman Scott Zoltowski said the committee reviewed Duxbury's open space and recreation needs and revised the plan to include input from town departments and committees. The committee also included the results from a recent open space survey. Conservation Administrator Joe Grady said the plan has

eight updated maps including those that show water resources and historic and cultural sites. A town must update its plan every five years in order to be eligible for self help grants to buy open space, said Grady. Duxbury is applying for a \$400,000 grant to offset the cost of purchasing more of the Camp Wing property, approved by town meeting. Selectman Betsy Sullivan said she felt the town must begin setting aside funds to maintain all the open space it has bought in recent years.

- Heard from Washington Street resident Mary "Pixie" Lampert regarding the hundreds of motorcycles that came roaring through town on Sunday. Lampert said the motorcycles were "a public nuisance" and were "inappropriate for a neighborhood." She urged selectmen to discuss creating a noise bylaw or to consider such a large gathering a parade and require a permit. As she walked along Washington Street, Lampert said she counted 100 bikers in a span from Shipyard Lane to Surplus Street and said they were an infringement upon her right to enjoy her property.

- Declared a bonus shellfish season for the recreational and commercial harvesting of soft-shell clams in June and for the commercial digging of quahog clams.

- Met in executive session to discuss litigation and land acquisition. Members of the Planning Board and Conservation Administrator Joe Grady as well as Town Counsel Bob Troy attended the closed meeting.

- Learned that Duxbury is eligible for a clean energy grant of \$8,330 from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative because residents donated to the Solar Challenge.